

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Claims 1, 3, 5-12, and 29 had been previously allowed. Independent claims 13 and 17 are amended as detailed below. After the amendment, claims 13, 15-22, 30, and 31 are now allowed.
2. Claims 1, 3, 5-13, 15-22, and 29-31 are allowed.
3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Brindisi on 5/8/2009.

4. The application has been amended. Please amend claims 13 and 17 as follows:
13. (Currently Amended) A device ~~capable of~~ receiving data at a frequency that is continuously-variable and is not selected a priori, said data including synchronization bits and bits conveying outer information and means for receiving subsequently transmitted bits at the ascertained transmission frequency; and

wherein said device is a slave device, and said data is from a master device, wherein said data comprises a packet including two or more words each containing synchronization bits, and wherein said means for ascertaining transmission frequency samples the bit width of at least

some synchronization bits of multiple words of said packet, and wherein said sampled multiple words are separated by one or more words containing bits conveying other information, and wherein said data comprises a packet that includes two or more words each containing an initial non-alternating portion followed by a series of alternating synchronization bits, and wherein said slave device includes memory means for storing said packet after it is received from said master device.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for transferring data, comprising:

a) a bus;

b) at least one master device including means for connection to said bus, said master device including means for transmitting, at a frequency that is continuously-variable and is not selected a priori, data that includes synchronization bits and bits conveying other information; and

c) at least one slave device including means for connection to said bus, said slave device including means for ascertaining transmission frequency by sampling the bit width of at least some synchronization bits and means for receiving said bits conveying information at the ascertained transmission frequency;

wherein said data comprises a packet including two or more words each containing synchronization bits, and wherein said means for ascertaining transmission frequency samples the bit width of at least some synchronization bits of multiple words of said packet, and wherein said sampled multiple words are separated by one or more words containing bits conveying other information, and wherein said data comprises a packet that includes two or more words each

containing an initial non-alternating portion followed by a series of alternating synchronization bits, and wherein said slave device includes memory means for storing said packet after it is received from said master device.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1, 13, and 17 as amended distinguish themselves over the prior art by delineating a method, device, and system for transferring data at a transmission frequency that is continuously variable and the data comprises a packet with a specific data structure. Specifically, the structure includes two or more words each containing synchronization bits, and wherein said means for ascertaining transmission frequency samples the bit width of at least some synchronization bits of multiple words of said packet, and wherein said sampled multiple words are separated by one or more words containing bits conveying other information, and wherein said data comprises a packet that includes two or more words each containing an initial non-alternating portion followed by a series of alternating synchronization bits. Another important feature is the sampling of the bit width of the data to determine the transmission frequency. With the current amendment clarifying that the device and system comprise a storage means that stores the specific data packet, the claims now show a patentable distinction over the prior art. Furthermore the prior art gives no indication that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have sent a data packet comprising the specific structure in the fashion presented in the independent claims.

Dependent claims 3, 5-11, 15, 16, 18-22, and 29-31 are allowed based on their dependence on claims 1, 13, and 17.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DOHM CHANKONG whose telephone number is (571)272-3942. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday [8:30 AM to 4:30 PM].

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571.272.3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dohm Chankong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452